



Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources

Sport Fish Restoration Projects

Hawai'i's Sport Fish Restoration Projects Overview

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) is a "user pays – user benefits" program which provides money to states for projects related to sport fish restoration and management. It is funded by manufacturers' excise taxes of 10% on fishing tackle and 3% on fish finders and electric trolling motors. The program also collects duties on imported fishing tackle and boats, a motorboat fuel tax (gasoline only), and small engine fuel taxes. These costs are all passed on to fishers (the "users"). The benefit to users is enhanced sport fishing opportunities, resulting from the state projects.

Eligible projects include research into fish and their habitats, fish stocking for recreational purposes, public access for recreational fishing, and technical assistance for managing sport fish populations. Up to 15% of the state's apportionment may be spent on education and outreach. Also, 15% must be spent on boating access projects; those funds are administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation. Hawai'i receives about 3.5 to 4 million dollars per year from the SFR program.

Certain activities are not eligible for funding by the program. They include law enforcement, commercial fisheries, promotion of the agency, income production, and encouraging opposition to the regulated taking of fish. What follows is a summary of our SFR projects.

Freshwater Fisheries Development stocks and manages rainbow trout in Pu'u Lua Reservoir on Kaua'i and largemouth bass in Wahiawā Reservoir on O'ahu. The project enhances freshwater sport fish populations, and provides quality recreational fishing opportunities.

The **Artificial Reef Fish Habitat** project has deployed over 30,000 z-shaped concrete modules since 1990. Benefits include increased fish biomass, increased overall species richness, enhanced habitat complexity, more fishing opportunities, and reduced fishing pressure on natural reefs.

Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) Development and Operation maintains an array of approximately 50 anchored FAD buoys at various locations around the state. Open ocean fishes such as tuna, marlin and mahimahi are attracted to floating objects and so the FADs provide sport fishers with improved chances of catching fish. The variety of FAD locations around the islands is designed to allow access by vessels of all sizes and fishers with different skill levels. Scientists also use FADs to study the biology of "blue water" fishes that are important to Hawai'i's culture and cuisine.

Program Coordination provides effective grant management and oversight controls to ensure that the eligibility requirements of the program are maintained. Use of SFR program funds requires considerable administration, supervision and coordination, and staff must ensure grants/projects comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations.

Freshwater Fisheries Research and Surveys is presently focused on the Wahiawā Reservoir Public Fishing Area on O'ahu, one of the state's few areas for freshwater sport fishing. Creel surveys are conducted to monitor fish populations and determine if hatchery-cultured largemouth bass are impacting existing largemouth bass populations. Surveys are also conducted to monitor any new exotic flora and fauna introductions.

Benefits

to sport fishing opportunities and access produce better fishing and boating experiences.

Anglers & Boaters

purchase fishing equipment and boat motor fuel.

Manufacturers

pay taxes on that fishing equipment.

DLNR DAR

receives funds to implement programs and projects.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

allocates funds to state fish and wildlife agencies.



Freshwater Fisheries Technical Guidance provides assistance to private landowners, government agencies, public entities, land managers, and non-government organizations during project planning and permit review processes to prevent and/or reduce negative impacts to freshwater habitats and resources from human development and activities.

Marine Fisheries Technical Guidance conducts environmental review of proposed marine projects that may affect marine resources. Staff also conduct investigations of fish or invertebrate kills or pollution incidents, documenting impacts to aquatic resources. Information collected is used in the evaluation and preparation of recommendations to minimize impact and conserve marine resources.



Survey of Fish and Habitat monitors the impact of fishing pressure and management actions on sport fish and associated habitats through in-water surveys. Fishing effort and intercept surveys also help quantify potential impacts to fish stocks, and monitor changes in fishing success. Information from this project helps guide management efforts for sustainable recreational fishing.

The **Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey** conducts voluntary in-person surveys at popular public boat ramps and shoreline fishing areas throughout the state. This data directly benefits sport fishers by providing essential, non-commercial fishing information to state and federal fishery managers which helps guide effective management decisions. The ultimate goal in collecting this data is to ensure sustainable fishing practices for present and future generations in Hawai'i.

Investigation of Hawaiian Estuaries addresses management and conservation of sport fish populations by improving management of juvenile fish and their habitats. Estuaries are exceptionally productive habitats which attract juvenile fish. Sustainable fishing relies on healthy estuaries.

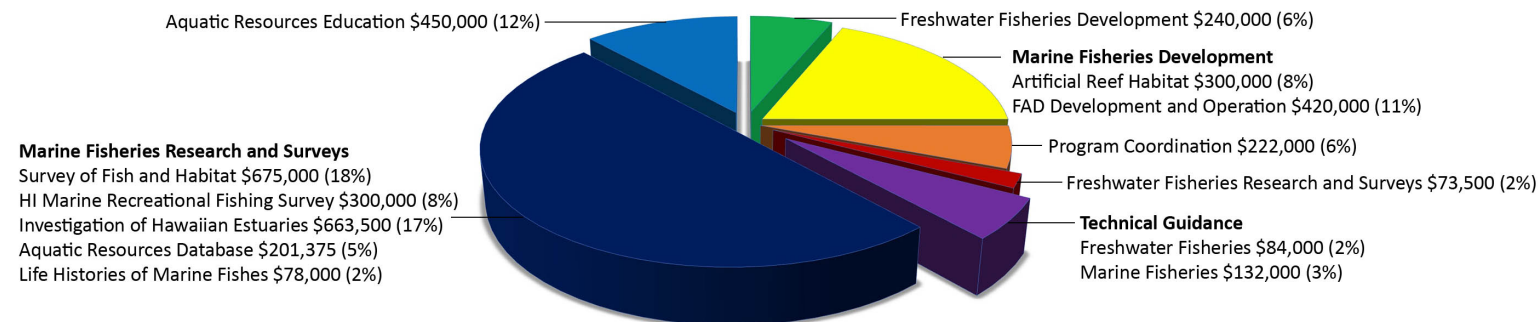
The **Aquatic Resources Database** project compiles and analyses data from monitoring projects in streams, estuaries, coral reefs, and recreational fisheries to provide critical information for improving management of sport fish and their habitats.

Life Histories of Marine Fishes provides basic life history information about species commonly targeted by Hawai'i's non-commercial fishers including ulua, pāpio, and 'ō'iō. Currently, the project is focused on gaining information on moi and multiple goatfish species. The project relies on volunteer anglers who assist with fish capture, tagging, and data collection. Collaboration with local inshore anglers provides opportunities to engage the fishing community and promote marine stewardship.

The **Aquatic Resources Education** project conducts activities to help community groups, students, and the general public better understand the nature of our aquatic resources and how to conserve them. Education staff provide a communications link between fishers and other stakeholders with DAR management.

Budget

This chart represents the funds budgeted to DAR's Sport Fish Restoration grants for Fiscal Year 2021. Actual expenditures will vary.



dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar

Funded in part by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program through your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

